

Rico Community Church

January – February, 2006 Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Dear Christian friends,

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." We have just celebrated a joyous season walking in the Christ Light. Now that winter is fully here, please pray that we will continue to be reflections of that Great Light in Rico.

Thanksgiving Eve's service was an exciting beginning of the Advent season as we gave thanks, held an Ecumenical Communion service and ate home made pie with more than 25 folks attending from our community. The following week we celebrated with our friends from Ridgway in a Christmas Candlelight Service followed by a delicious soup supper. Deana Ireland, Martina Reeser and Marlene Hazen served up home made potato soup and our guests from Ridgway brought the desserts. This was the day of our first snowfall, so attendance was down from last year, but we had a good time singing, and watching Reverend Dick Engdahl's extemporaneous illustration of the Nativity during the Worship Service.

Our Christmas Eve Worship and Communion Service was well-attended (34 folks). The Children participated by lighting the Advent and Christ Candles, and by taking part in the time for younger believers. The sweetness of their young voices during the candlelight singing of "Silent Night" was very moving.

We pray that God will continue to bless the ministry here in Rico. Jenny Nunley has been our faithful accompanist and her daughter, Kaitlin, has been working with the children on their Bible lessons on Sunday mornings.

We are so thankful for faithful people as the ministry continues to grow in the Rico Community Presbyterian Church. May God continues to bless you as you prayerfully support this church.

With praise and thanksgiving,

Carol

Pastor Carol Burgeson

Christmas Community Service Sunday, December 4th



Dick Engdahl's time with young believers. Dick is the pastor of the United Church of the San Juans in Ridgway. A number of that congregation joined with us.



Jenny Nunley, Martina Reeser and Kim Jones sing for us



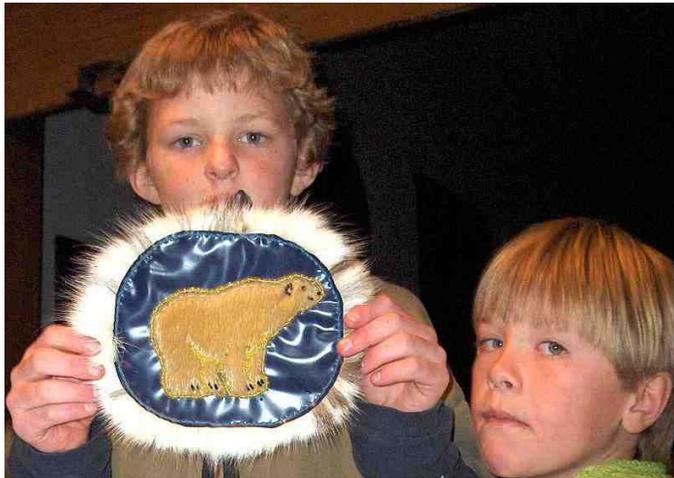
Roger and Angie Henn, who spearheaded the restoration of the Henn House a decade ago, were here.

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Youth News

Savoonga, Alaska

Member Jake Boyer has put our youth in touch with a "sister" church in Savoonga, Alaska, located 15 miles off the coast of Siberia. Jake travels there every year to provide free dental services. Savoonga is a village of 630 persons on St Laurence Island, the westernmost part (except for Hawaii) of the United States.



Mac Vergari and Max Reeser display a Savoonga craft

Youth Night

Youth night is every Friday, 6:30 to 8:30. We play games, make videos, assemble the newsletter and, at the end of each month, enjoy pizza. Attendance varies and has been as high as 14. On the Fridays that the school has game night, we meet here and join others at the school.

2005 Statistics

2005 was our first full year of weekly Worship services. We have had 57 services, averaging 19 in attendance. Our high was 53; the low was 6 on a bitter March Sunday. We have met our financial goals. The local community has been supportive, particularly Rico's monthly newspaper, the Bugle. We look forward to a successful 2006.

The Rico Community Church

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(Updated 12/31/2005)

This newsletter is available by email. Just ask us.



The Fallons, Cassidy, Darcy, Ryan and Jimmie, lighting the Advent candles on December 18th

Christmas Eve



Julie sings "Mary's Song"



Sierra, Cici, Max, Wyatt and Kelby light the Advent candles.

Talent Night, Sat, Feb 25th, 5:00 PM

The community will hold a "talent night" in the afternoon of Feb 25th. Prizes will be given, Contact Marlene Hazen to sign up and learn the details. All are invited.

100 Years ago (January, 1906)

Sunday School began with record attendance. Superintendent Mrs. John S. Krantz, assisted by Mrs. J. Diehl, Treasurer Mrs. M. Ellis, Organist Miss Bales, and Secretary Isella Garren were ready for the pupils on Sunday, January 7. Forty-five attended; Mrs. Hicks' "Banner Class" (Primary) was the largest of the four classes. The total offering was \$1.76. We studied the shepherds. Other teachers are Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Adams, Miss Lookabell, Mrs. Herron and Mrs. Moore. Nellie Woolcock is assistant secretary. Church services are discontinued until February as we have no pastor. (1906, NOT 2006!) The parsonage has been rented for \$10.00 per month. Forty-three attended on Sunday, January 14; the offering was \$1.45. We studied the wise men.
